

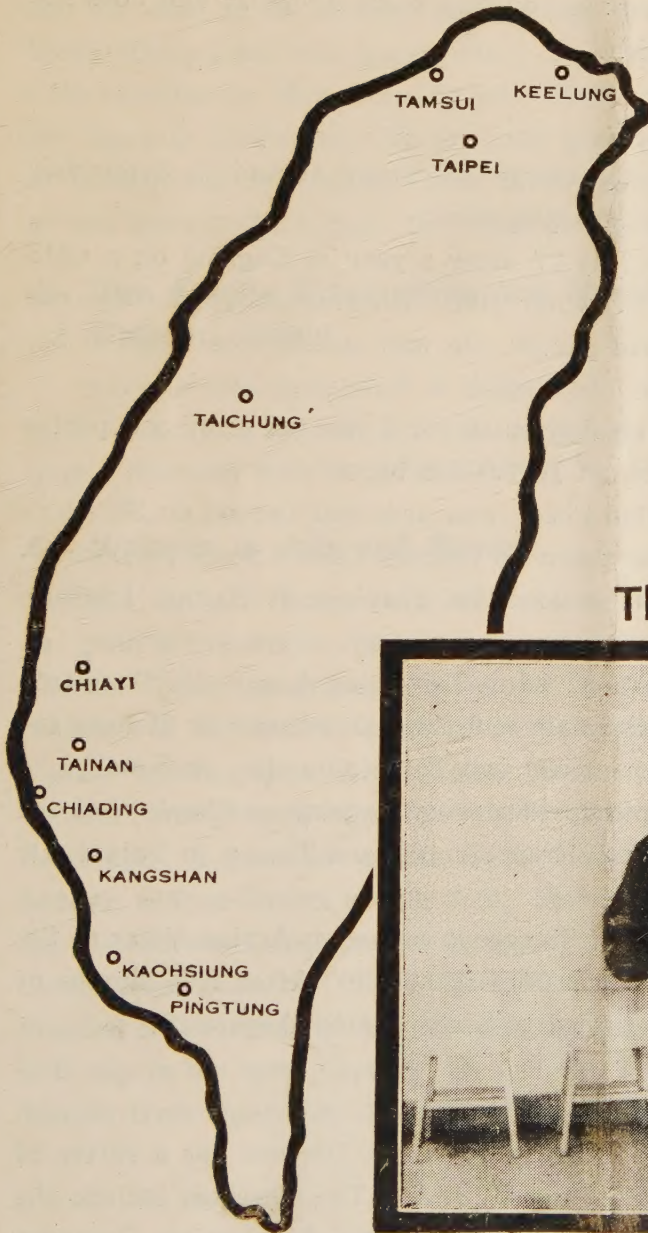
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# Friendship

Autumn 1975

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THE LONG HOT SUMMER



Rev. Lin Kuo-Hsing preaching at the adult retreat.



## From the Bishop

1st September 1975.

Dear flock and friends,

As our June issue did not come out until August, and I am not sure when this issue will be published, my report to you may seem irregular and does not correspond to the period of publication.

### 1. Clergy movements.

The leaving of at least one of the clergy for study abroad in September each year necessitates many changes in deployment:-

*Canon Samuel Chen* returned on July 27 after a year in England on a CMS bursary at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, Crowther Hall, Birmingham, and some experience of church work in an Oxford parish. He was installed as Dean of St. John's Cathedral on August 31st.

*Rev. Charles Chen* left Taiwan on August 30 for a year of study and parish experience in Ireland and England on an Irish CMS bursary.

*Rev. David Hsu* (sometimes called Chee) was ordained deacon on St. Bartholemew's Day, August 24, and has taken up Charles Chen's work as Deacon-in-charge of Advent Church as well as assistant chaplain at Hsinpu Institute of Technology.

*Rev. and Mrs. Douglas Phillips* arrived in Taiwan on August 12. Douglas's work for the next two years is as Chaplain and English lecturer at Hsinpu Institute of Technology. He will assist at our two Taipei churches on Sundays.

*Rev. George S. Richard*, an Episcopalian priest serving as Chaplain of the U.S. Air Force in Taiwan was recently transferred from Tainan to Taipei Air Force Station.

*Rev. K. H. Lin* from the Diocese of Singapore served as Acting Vicar of St. John's Cathedral since the death of Dean Chia in March. After five months of distinguished service with us, he returned to Singapore on August 28.

### 2. My travels

From Sept. 1 to Oct. 15 I shall be away from the Diocese for a series of meetings and preaching engagements in the U. S. A. The meetings include the Province VIII Synod, St. John's (and St. Mary's) Alumni Association, Overseas

Bishops, Joint Commission on World Mission, House of Bishops, etc. My preaching engagements are in San Francisco, Portland, Maine, Vienna, Virginia, etc. After my work, I hope to have a holiday of two weeks to visit my son and daughter in Delaware and Maryland. I have also been away in the Philippines three times—for a Bishops' Consultation on July 15-19, and the consecrations of Bishop Profirio de la Cruz of the Philippine Independent Church on June 8 and of Bishop Richard Abellon of the Diocese of the Northern Philippines on August 6.

### **3. Opening of St. Michael's New Building.**

The rebuilding of St. Michael's Hostel in Tainan was completed in August, and the date of its official opening has been fixed as September 29, which is Saint Michael and All Angels Day. As I shall still be away from Taiwan, our CMS missionary, Rev. Roy Taylor, the Warden of St. Michael's, will perform the Opening Ceremony. We are most grateful to the Church Missionary Society of London and the United Thank Offering of the ECW of ECUSA for their generous grants which make the rebuilding possible.

### **4. The Family Counselling and Nursery building at St. Peter's Church, Chiayi**

Tis was also completed in August and will be in use in September. This is built with the \$ 400,000 NT raised through last year's 20th Anniversary Fund plus a diocesan loan of \$ 700,000 NT.

### **5. Visitors in July and August.**

Mrs. Lily S. Sung, wife of the late Rev. Dr. William Sung, president of St. John's University, had four grandchildren in Taiwan in July-August for the Summer Youth programme sponsored by the China Youth Corps. Miss Doris Mitchell of the Australian Board of Missions was here on July 26-30. The Rev. Ronald Lynch, Mrs. Jones, Miss Harrison and Mr. Payne of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania worshipped at St. John's Cathedral on July 27. Mr. Stephan Schlaikjer, a grandson of the Rev. Claude Pickens Jr., arrived in August to become a Vice-Consul of the U.S. Embassy. Mr. John Cottrell, Co-ordinator for the Partners in-Mission of the CCEA, was in Taipei on August 25-26 for consultation with the CCEA Chairman, Bishop Pong. Rev. Dr. Peter Leary, Warden of St. Peter's Hall, Singapore, visited Taipei on August 28-30 to consult with me in the same capacity on a CCEA Theological Consultation to be held in Manila from November 30 to December 4.

Yours affectionate Bishop,  
James Pong.



# THE LONG HOT SUMMER

It is customary for people in Britain and the U. S. A. to spend the cold winter months reading travel brochures which speak of golden sands and bright sunshine. Somehow it makes the problem of trying to heat your house economically a little less worrying. This holiday mania, however, does not affect the Chinese people, for whom a break from the normal routine usually signifies no more than a day trip to a local beauty spot.

Nor is the prospect of the approach of summer always an appealing one. There are more comfortable ways of living than enduring a climate in which the slightest movement causes rivers of sweat to flow. This summer was hotter than usual, with temperatures often in the nineties. Under such conditions a man could be forgiven for retiring to his bed with an air conditioning unit close at hand until the trouble was over. However, even in such conditions the work of our church goes on.

During the summer months there are several special events which take place annually. In the articles which follow we describe some of them. You will find indications both of success and of frustration. Remember the frustrations in your prayers: we need your encouragement.

## **(1) An Evaluation of the Summer Camps—Rev. John Chien**

It is time for us to evaluate all the camps and activities which were held in summer. Some of our clergy think that these activities are meaningless as well as worthless because they are, in fact, out of date. Of course, I don't agree with this viewpoint; otherwise I would be like that kind of man who, as St. Paul mentioned, is fighting the air. We may argue about the methods of running summer camps, but we have to have faith in God who can do anything on any occasion, no matter what kind of methods we might adopt.

The summer camp for adults was held at a famous tourist spot near Taichung from August 13 to 15 with 40 people attending. The theme of this conference was "Life through Death". A lot of those attending kept asking why we had been talking about death all the way through. This may indicate that most people are afraid of death, and that nobody liked to talk about it. Why do Christians like to talk about death without hesitation? It is no doubt because our Lord Jesus Christ has died for us and risen again. As soon as people talk about church growth, they are used to thinking about reading the Bible and saying prayers. As a matter of fact it is a problem of death and sacrifice. In other words, most Christians should think of what they can do for the church rather than what the church can do for them. Otherwise, there is no hope for



the growth of the church. Though we have been talking a lot about church growth, we still cannot see any striking developments in any of our churches in Taiwan.

The camp for college students was held at St. John's and St. Mary's college from July 6 to 11. It was attended by around 50 students. This camp was divided into two parts: the first part was mainly for Christians, focussing on growth, taking root downward and bearing fruit; the second part was for those interested in Christian teaching but not yet committed. The subject was "Where are you?" It was our great pleasure to have Fr. Lin of Singapore at this camp. He made a very significant contribution to it. It seemed to me that most young



Christians loved this kind of spiritual atmosphere. I do hope it can be spread over all our churches in Taiwan. In addition we introduced Christian publications to these young people in order to help them pursue their own spiritual development. To tell the truth, it was a joyful thing, not a burden, to attend this camp for young people who are capable of taking a lot of responsibility





upon themselves. It was encouraging to see their sincere attitude toward Christian teaching. However, it was sad that we still could not get rid of the monologue in most cases. We also found that most of your young Christians are too weak to fight for our Lord. It is therefore our duty to equip them in many ways in order that they may be good soldiers of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In regard to the camp held for senior and junior students from July 22 to 25 at a Catholic student centre in Chiayi, it was attended by forty students. The theme for this camp was "downward rooting". I felt this topic was very suitable for these young people, for they were growing physically as well as spiritually. The outcome of this camp was very fruitful, according to an article printed in our Chinese magazine not long ago. Who knows what may be the far-reaching results of such a summer camp? It is our belief that God is able to do anything, and he will make us grow.

Finally I must talk a little about Sunday School conferences held for young children. Our custom is to hold these separately in the north and the south. The conference in the north was held at Good Shepherd Church with a hundred participants, and that in the south was at St. Peter's Church in Chiayi with almost the same number. Nevertheless our traditional way of handling this activity is almost the same. Frankly speaking, I think it is not a good way; and I hope for something new and creative next year.

We do not look at our summer camps and other activities as the only chance of nurturing our Christians, yet they are important in many ways. We cannot depend for evangelistic outreach only on summer activities, but should pay more attention to daily Christian nurture and evangelism. However, I must confess that I cannot completely fulfil my vision because I have such a lot of work to do in this parish. In fact, a part-time worker such as myself is unable to make any creative plans for the nurture and evangelistic work of the whole diocese. I can only do the routine work. Sometimes we speak of church growth in terms of money and manpower; yet I strongly believe that Christian education is the key to the whole matter.

## **(2) Teenagers' Camp**

This camp was held at Chiayi in the same student hostel as it was two years ago; but structural alterations had changed it considerably. Here some of the young people from St. Paul's, Kaohsiung, describe what the camp has meant to them:

-Although I belonged to the Youth Fellowship in my church, my faith was unstable. But I have learned to come close to the Lord and to strengthen my faith through Bible reading and prayer at camp. (Chen Li-fei)

-Before the camp I was a very shy girl. At camp I came to know God better, and to understand more about the words of the Bible; as a result, I



found I was more ready to talk, even to strangers. (Ou Hsiu-Chih)

-I am so thankful for the Lord's abundant blessings. This camp helped me to understand more about myself. I also came to know more about strengthening my daily spiritual life, about praying and studying the Bible regularly. (Chi Chung-hsia)

-This is the first time I have joined a summer camp run by the Taiwan Episcopal Church. I have gained a lot of blessings from it. When I go back to my church I want to discuss with my minister about being baptized. (Clin Hung-yen)



### (3) The Adult Summer Retreat-Henry Pan

As chaplain of this retreat, I have the privilege of saying a few words about what impressed me most.

First I would like to say that it was a good sign to see our laymen taking responsibility for the running of the retreat. They did a good job in such administrative tasks as booking the place, arranging the program and organizing transport. It is easy to open our mouths and speak, but it is always difficult to put our words into action. This is an old problem. If Christians refuse to take the Cross upon their shoulders, they will never understand the meaning of the resurrection of the body. Do you believe this? Just ask yourself, "Do I really have the courage to wash my brethren's feet?"

The program this year was more evangelistic than devotional. The sermons preached were very moving. But it was not enough just to encourage people to make a decision for Christ. It is important to help them to become true disciples of Jesus Christ. We must therefore tell them how to have personal daily Bible study and to cultivate their prayer life. Unfortunately our churchpeople are not mature enough for such solid food. After a mere hour of Bible study concerning the fundamental doctrine of "justification by faith" there are signs

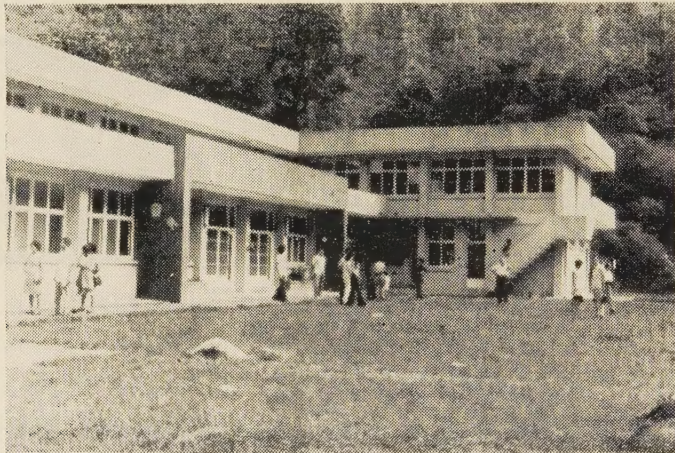


of being tired!

I was very glad to hear a woman say that she would set apart time to read the Bible and pray every day after the camp. Generally speaking, the believers are ambitious to move into a much deeper experience of God's grace, but they have scarcely got started. They still do not have much appetite for prayer and Bible study. It is not strange, therefore, to find that our church is spiritually weak.

The discussion held on the last night was very fruitful. Many people brought out their suggestions concerning how to deal with problems within the church. Almost all of us agreed that we should dedicate ourselves more to spending time with the Lord God. This was the main point. Let us pray for power from Jesus Christ our Lord to turn our decisions into actions.

(abbreviated)



#### **(4) Vacation Bible School at St. James's Church-Henry Pan.**

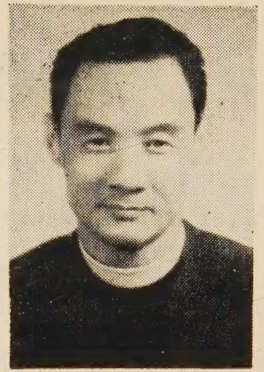
St. James's Church was established over four years ago in a completely non-Christian neighborhood. The deep-rootedness of sin amongst the adult community makes it very difficult to persuade them to turn to God for salvation. Our long-term policy, therefore, is to start by cultivating faith among little children. Over three years ago we began to run a kindergarten, and this work is going quite well. The place itself, the toys and facilities are well able to attract local children to come inside and play. From Monday to Saturday the use of these facilities is restricted to Kindergarten children; but on Sundays we allow other children from the neighborhood to come in and play. It is from these that the basic ranks of our Sunday School are formed. Our church grounds are beautifully arranged. Since we do not normally allow the children of the neighborhood to come in, they are all the more anxious to do so. When we throw open the gates on Sunday, therefore, they come inside, and are able to



play with the toys just as they wish. Kindergarten teachers are there to tell them Bible stories. Sometimes we distribute candies for them to eat. The children have grown fond of these Kindergarten teachers. This is the starting point for our Gospel outreach into that area.

The Vacation Bible School is an important annual event in the life of our Sunday School. From Monday to Friday, on the five consecutive afternoons, from 2 till 5, the children are enthusiastic students. They make rapid progress. The church has become a sort of Paradise to them. The Lord Jesus has already entered into their lives and become their King. There was one special feature about this year's VBS. Because our Kindergarten had bought a medium sized bus, we were able to tell the children that those who obtained the best results would be able to travel in the new bus as representatives of our church to St. Peter's Chiayi for the annual Sunday School competition (southern area) run by our Church. This was a great stimulus to the children to learn. More and more, they are coming to feel that this is their very own place, where they can be happy. They have come to understand that they have "uncles" and "aunts" in Chiayi, Tainan, Kaohsiung, Kangshan, and even across the sea at the other end of the world. When they meet together there is a very happy spirit.

This year 55 children attended our VBS. For teaching purposes, they were divided into three classes-senior, junior and primary. Most of them were also our Sunday School children, of whom there are between 50 and 60. All of them are local children. In ten or twenty years' time they will be adults. We are seeking by God's grace to effect a change amongst the local community, so that the light of Jesus Christ may illumine this place for ever. Amen.





# AROUND THE CHURCHES

## *St. Peter's, Chiayi*

At the Kindergarten's second graduation ceremony on 12th July, some 88 children graduated. Gifts of clothing were recently sent from the kindergarten to help refugees from Viet Nam and Cambodia.

## *St. Andrew's Chiading*

An appeal for help was made when a church member's daughter became seriously ill and needed an operation. Through the kindness of members from other of our churches, all the needed money was supplied.

## *Good Shepherd Church, Shihlin, Taipei.*

There have been several changes on the Bishop's Committee. On 1st June a gathering was held at the home of Dr. Su to mark the graduation of three overseas Chinese; and each was presented with a Bible.

## *Holy Trinity, Keelung*

In view of the necessity for rebuilding, a committee has been formed to look into all aspects. This has to be reconciled somehow with the diocese's policy of working towards financial independence.

## *St. John's Cathedral, Taipei.*

After attending the diocesan camp for students, some of the young people here also held their own retreat, and there was much blessing. Rev. Lin Kuo-Hsing is much missed.

## *All Saints, Kangshan*

In order to help those who have come to Taiwan from Viet Nam and Cambodia, this church has sent gifts of clothing.

## *St. Michael's, Tainan.*

All 32 places in the new hostel are now taken. Over a third of the students are Christians, and others are interested. Alas, the old banyan tree that was a marked feature of our landscape has died; but the work of cutting it down has enabled the students to work together right from the start, and has set the atmosphere of family life which we have prayed the Lord to give us.



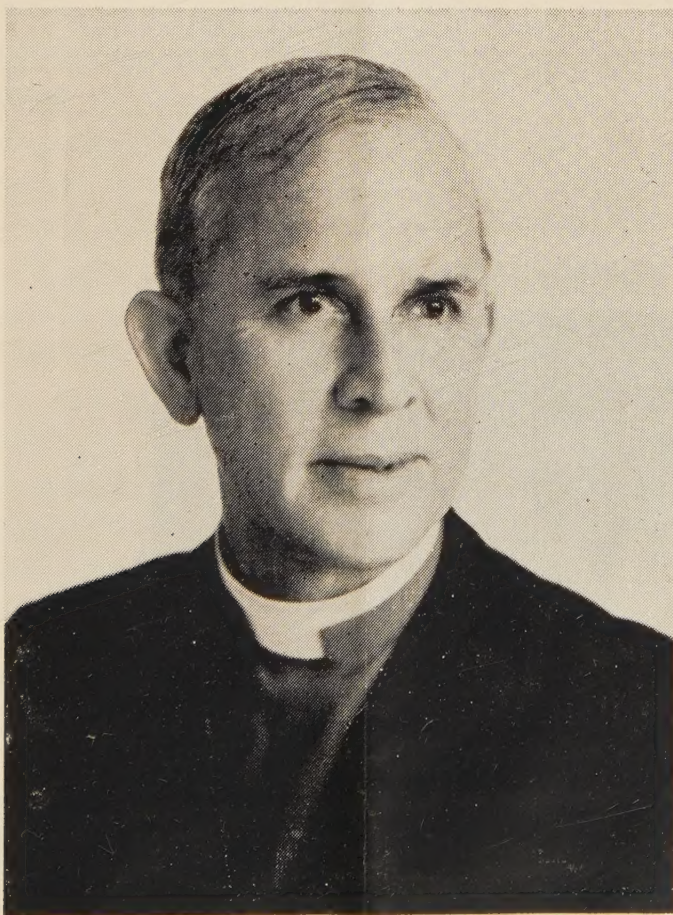
## In Memoriam: The Rt. Rev. Lani Hanchett

Bishop Hanchett, of our Companion Diocese of Hawaii, died of cancer in Honolulu on August 11 at the age of 55.

Bishop Hanchett and Bishop Pong inaugurated the Companion relationship between Hawaii and Taiwan in February 1973. Since then he has visited Taiwan three times and donated the money needed to build the Vicarage at Good Shepherd, which we named Hanchett House. He was very much concerned over the task of evangelism in our Diocese and wrote a very valuable report on what he had seen of our work, as well as contributing money to help the evangelistic aspects of it.

Bishop Hanchett was remembered at all the churches in the Diocese on Sunday, August 17.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Puanani Akana, who has also visited Taiwan with him, and to their four children.





## **Postscript**

The Bishop wrote from the U.S.A. on 9th September. In it he told us that he had attended the Province 8 Synod at the Davis campus of the University of California on 5th and 6th—probably the only Bishop from Taiwan ever to do so. He informed us that the U.T.O. had granted \$20,000 U.S. for the provision of a new kindergarten building at St. James, Taichung. \$500 U.S. has also been granted for library books by the Church Periodical Club. He also speaks of money given by the St. John's University Alumni of the San Francisco Bay area.

## **Editorial Note**

We apologize for the delay in the appearance of the last edition of this magazine. We have changed to another printer in Tainan, as this is more convenient; but this has occasioned a lot of teething troubles. We hope the magazine will soon be able to appear on schedule again.